Manufacturing of video cassette recorders

2137. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to manufacture video cassette records in the Public Sector in collaboration with some Japanese company; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS, AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b) It has been decided to issue Letter of Intent to one party in Public Sector for the manufacture of VCRs/VCPs in addition to the three Letters of Intent issued in the Private Sector. Electronics Trade & Technology Development Corporation Limited (ET&T) has been asked to submit a revised composite application for manufacture of VCRs & VCPs. ET&T is yet to submit the proposal

Delicensing of indigenous technology based electronic industry

2138. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Electronics Commission has reccommended delicensing of all sectors of the electronics industry based on indigenous technology;

(b) if so, the extent to which the delicensing policy will help in achieving the production target of electronics during the Seventh Plan; and

(c) the extent to which this new policy will help reduction in prices of electronics goods in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS, AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) to (c) Various recommendations made by the Electronics Commission regarding Electronics Policy and Growth Objectives 1988-89 are under consideration of the Government.

Legal Impact of the Inter-State Rivers Projects

2139. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the legal impact of the Projects of inter-State rivers cleared by Government technically and administratively; and

(b) whether the clearance is meant only to enable the State Government to secure financial assistance from the Centre and the International Financial Institutions or it would create any rights in the States where the Projects are located?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b) Clearance of inter-State river projects involve examination of not only the techno-economic viability but also the inter-State issues. Such clearance also helps the States to secure the financial assistance.

INDO-US Joint Medical Research

2140. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indo-US joint medical research has initiated several new proposals on Vaccine Action Programme (VAP);

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) by when the said proposals are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, under the Indo-US Vaccine Action Programme for bio-medical research, a number of research proposals are being developed. These proposals are in the priority diseases already identified under this programme, which include, poliomyelitis, viral hepatitis, diarrhoeal diseases, rabies and pertussis.

(c) These proposals, which have to be joint R&D projects of India and the USA are to be subjected to peer review by expert peer and also administrative clearance/ approvals within the Government of India, as well as in the USA before these can be taken up for implementation. It is expected that these procedural steps would be completed for some of the project-proposals, already under review, during the current financial year.

Vacancies in Rajya Sabha

2141. SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacancies in the Rajya Sabha;

(b) since when these vacancies have occurred; and

(c) what steps have been taken to fill up these vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI HANS RAJ BHARDWAJ): (a) The number of vacancies at present is 5.

(b) The vacancies have existed as below:—

3 from April, 1988;

1 from October, 1988; and

1 from September, 1988.

(c) The vacancies which have existed since April and October, 1988, are to be filled by the elected members of the Legislative Assemblies of Punjab and Uttar Pradesh. The question of filling 3 vacancies from the State of Punjab which arose from April, 1988 would arise after the constitution of the Legislative Assembly in Punjab. In respect of the single vacancy in so far as the State of Uttar Pradesh is concerned, the Election Commission has on 22-11-1988, notified the programme of bye-election setting out 13-12-1988 as the date for the poll, if necessary.

The remaining vacancy which has occurred in September, 1988 is to be filled by nomination to be made by the President under article 80(1) (a), read with clause (3) of that article. The mater is in process.

Completion of Narmada Project

2142. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for delay in completing the Narmada Project and by when it will be completed;

(b) what would be its approximate cost after completion; and

(c) whether the World Bank has provided any assistance; if so, the amount thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b) The reference is presumably to the Sardar Sarovar Project which has been cleared for an estimated cost of Rs. 6406 crores by the Planning Commission during October, 1988. The Government of Gujarat have planned to complete the main components of the project in a period of 17 years with 1987-88 as the base year.